

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method of stabilizing a surface, the method comprising the steps of:
  - 5 disposing a porous element on a surface to be stabilized;
  - depositing a flowable material onto the porous element, said flowable material entering openings defined within said porous element; and
  - 10 allowing the flowable material to set within said openings, the porous element and set flowable material forming a microclimate on said surface favorable to growth of vegetation.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing a flowable material is performed after the step of disposing the porous element on the surface to be stabilized.
- 20 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of fastening the porous element onto the surface to be stabilized before the step of depositing the flowable material.
- 25 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises the step of injecting the flowable material into the porous element.
- 30 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of injecting comprises injecting the flowable material into the porous element using conventional seeding apparatus.
- 35 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying the flowable material to the porous element.

porous element.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying a mulching material to the porous element.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying a bonded fiber matrix material to the porous element.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a reinforced fiber matting.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a three-dimensional, cellular matting.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element comprises a substantially two-dimensional netting material.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of disposing comprises securing the porous element to the surface prior to the step of depositing.

13. A system for stabilizing a surface prone to soil erosion, the system comprising:

a porous element disposed on a surface to be stabilized; and

a matrix material incorporated within the porous element;

the system being made by anchoring the porous element to the surface and thereafter injecting a fluid matrix material into the porous element and thereafter allowing the fluid matrix material to set within openings defined within the porous element.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element is a cellular matting.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element  
5 comprises a netting material.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the matrix material comprises a mixture of fibers bonded with a polymer material.

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